



# SALEM FIRE & EMS DEPARTMENT WARNS CITIZENS OF TELEMARKETING SCAM

**For Immediate Release – January 22, 2009**

The Salem Fire and EMS Department wants citizens to know that it is not asking them for money.

Recently, a number of concerned residents have contacted the Salem Fire and EMS department after they received suspicious phone calls from a telemarketer claiming to be an employee of the Salem Fire Department.

"The people should know that no City of Salem employee will be soliciting funds from them for any reason," says Salem Fire Chief Pat Counts. "The services we provide for them are paid for through taxpayer dollars."

The telemarketing firm is representing local professional firefighter associations in the cities of Salem and Roanoke and Roanoke Co. These organizations are known for their charitable work in the Roanoke Valley, especially with the Muscular Dystrophy Association. However, there is concern that with this round of fundraising calls some of the telemarketing agents are misrepresenting the city.

"The calls sounds legitimate and there's no doubt this group has a history of doing good work, but my concern is that people are saying they're members of the Salem Fire and EMS and that's just not the case," says Counts.

If any Salem citizen receives a call of this nature he or she is encouraged to contact the Salem Fire and EMS department and report the incident by calling 375-3080.

**Contact:**

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